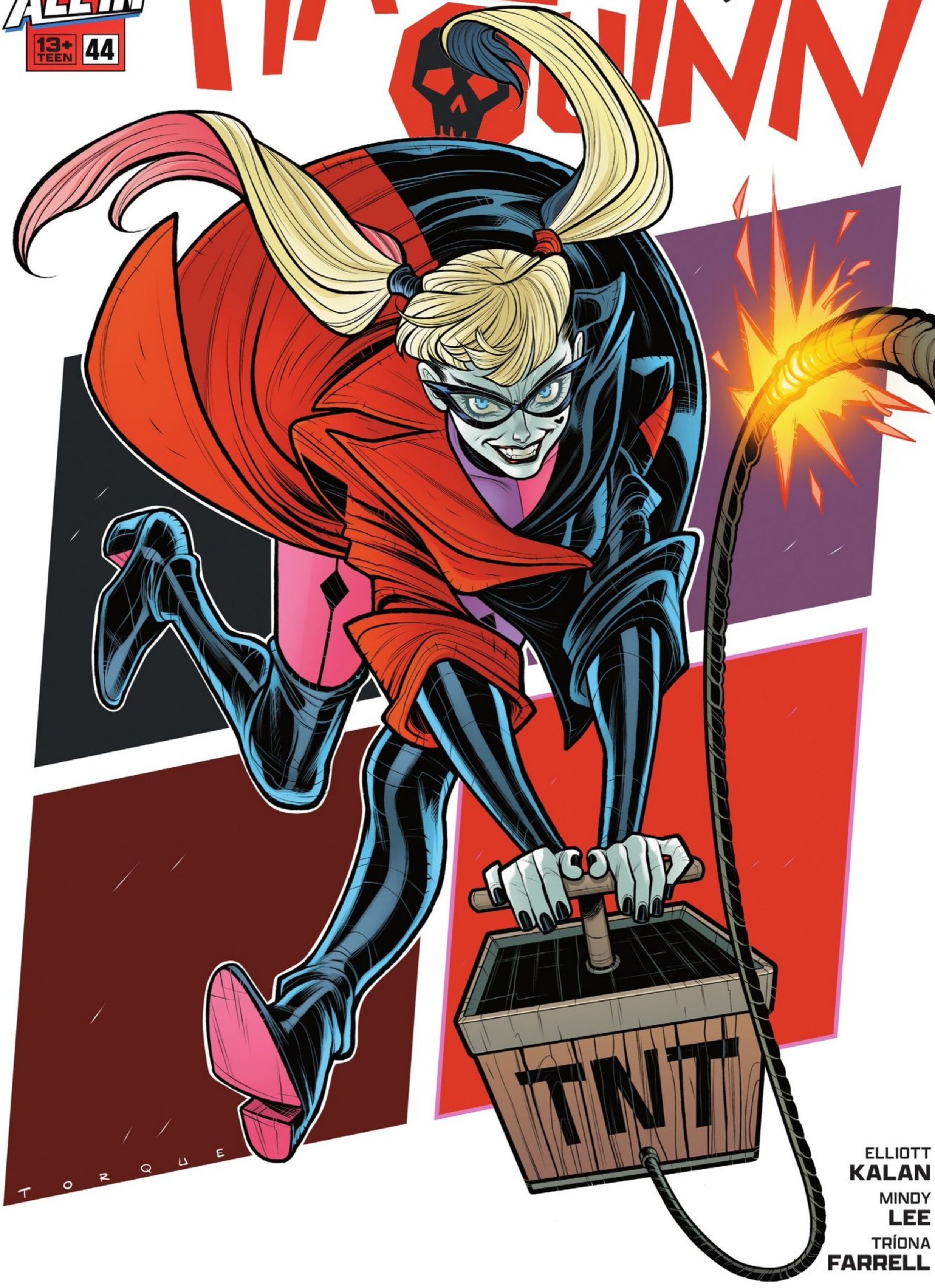
DC ALL IN

13+ TEEN 44

HARLEY QUINN



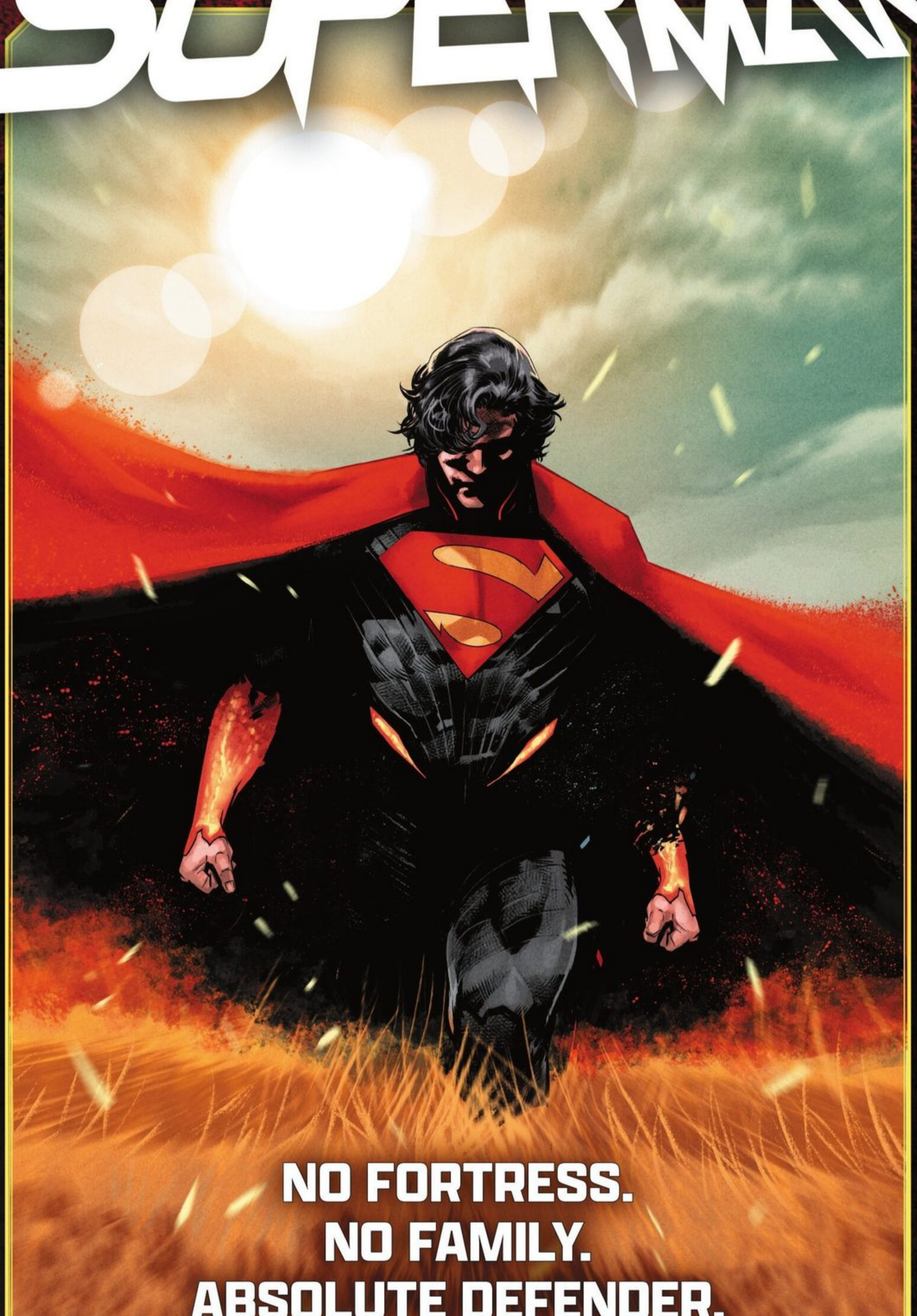
ELLIOTT
KALAN

MINDY
LEE

TRÍONA
FARRELL

ALL IN

ABSOLUTE SUPERMAN



NO FORTRESS.
NO FAMILY.
ABSOLUTE DEFENDER.

Written by **JASON AARON** • Art and cover by **RAFA SANDOVAL**

The outlaw **Man of Steel** debuts in **NOVEMBER**

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I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT, BUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, MY LIFE WENT ***SCREWY.***

PROBABLY WHEN I QUIT THE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSION TO BE A ***SUPER-VILLAIN,*** THEN TRIED TA REDEEM MYSELF BY HELPIN' A POWER-MAD LADY CONTROL THE WORLD.* IN RETROSPECT, SHOULDA SEEN THAT WOULDN'T WORK.

WORST OF ALL, I GOTTA KEEP MY DISTANCE FROM IVY, THE LOVE O' MY LIFE.

IF WE GET TOO CLOSE, I COULD BLOW UP HER SPOT AND TIP OFF THE PEOPLE WHO THINK SHE'S A ***TERRORIST***--AND WANNA BLOW UP MORE THAN JUST HER SPOT.**

I FIND MYSELF VACILLATIN' WILDLY. DOIN' CRIMES ONE DAY, TRYIN' TO SAVE THE WORLD THE NEXT.

I AIN'T ***BAD*** ENOUGH FOR THE BADDIES, OR ***GOOD*** ENOUGH FOR THE GOODY TWO-SHOES.

BACK IN TOWN

IS IT ANY WONDER I GOT SOME UNDERLYIN' AGGRESSION TO WORK OUT?

ELLIOTT KALAN *Writer*
MINDY LEE *Artist*
TRÍONA FARRELL *Colorist*
LUCAS GATTONI *Letterer*
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ARIANNA TURTURRO *Editor*
ROB LEVIN *Group Editor*

HARLEY QUINN
CREATED BY PAUL DINI & BRUCE TIMM

*see Absolute Power: Dream Team! -Arianna

**see Poison Ivy #26! -Still Me!

SMASH

A GIRL STARTS TO ASK HERSELF, IS THIS ***REALLY*** THE LIFE SHE HOPED SHE'D BE LIVIN'?

IS THIS REALLY ALL THERE IS?

WHEN DO YOU REALIZE YOU'RE JUST GOIN' THROUGH THE MOTIONS? DOIN' THE STUFF THAT USED TO TICKLE YOU PINK, ONLY NOW IT TICKLES YOU... WHATEVER THE ***OPPOSITE*** OF PINK IS.

TURQUOISE? HELL IF I KNOW-- I'M NOT A COLOR WHEEL.

AND IF IT WASN'T BAD ENOUGH THAT YOU'RE DEPRESSED, THEN YOU START FEELIN' ***GUILTY*** FOR BEIN' DEPRESSED.

WHACK

IN THERAPY TERMS, WE CALL THAT THE SECOND ARROW.

I CAN BE MY OWN WORST ENEMY. AND THAT'S HARD WORK, CONSIDERIN' HOW OFTEN I GET SHOT AT!

BLAM

CRACK

FACE IT, HARLEY GIRL, YOUR POLAR'S GONE BI.

SMASH

BLAM

THE OLD JOKES DON'T GET YOU THE WAY THEY USED TO.

OOF!

AND THESE ARE **GOOD** JOKES. TRUST ME, I'M A PROFESSIONAL.

IT'S THE OLD STORY. BUT DOCTOR, I **AM** THE THIEF THAT ROBBED PAGLIACCI!

IF LAUGHTER'S THE BEST MEDICINE, WHADDAYA DO WHEN YOUR SUPPLY GETS CUT OFF?

HONEY, I'M HOOOOOOOME!

BUT YOU'RE NOTTTTT!

ALL THIS SOLILOQUIZIN' SURE BUILDS UP AN APPETITE.

GUESS I'LL WHIP UP A BATCH OF MY FAVORITE: WHATEVER IN THE FRIDGE HAS THE LEAST MOLD ON IT.

AWW, I FORGOT IVY STUCK THIS HERE. LITTLE OL' ***HARLEEN QUINZEL,*** BACK WHEN I WAS IN GRAD SCHOOL AT GOTHAM U!

LOOK AT THE TWINKLE IN THOSE EYES. SO FULL OF HOPE AND AS-YET-UNEARTHED SADISM.

THAT WAS TAKEN IN MY FIRST APARTMENT IN GOTHAM. BACK WHEN I LIVED OVER ON ***THROATCUTTER HILL.***

THEY CALLED IT THAT CUZ IN 1887 THE MAYOR GOT HIS THROAT CUT THERE.

"I HAVEN'T BEEN THERE IN FOREVER, BUT IT WAS A REAL PIT. WORST NEIGHBORHOOD IN GOTHAM.

"SO MANY MEMORIES..."

65 BLOODSTAIN LANE... THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT, CAN IT? THE DEPARTMENT RECEPTIONIST'S GOT HANDWRITING LIKE AN INK-DIPPED SPIDER HAVIN' A STROKE.

MY NEW APARTMENT'S GOTTA BE *SOMEWHERE* AROUND HERE...

AW, NUTS!

OOF!

WELL WOULDJA LOOKIT THIS!

WE GOT OURSELVES A *SUBURBAN* GIRL.

ACTUALLY, I'M FROM BROOKLYN! WHICH I KNOW *ISN'T* THE SAME CITY AS THIS, BUT I'M MOVIN' INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD TONIGHT, SO IT'S KINDA LIKE WE'RE NEIGHBORS ALREADY... SO MAYBE IF YOU COULD, *UH*, NOT KILL ME? PLEASE?

STAY AWAY FROM HER! SHE'S UNDER MY PROTECTION!

OH YEAH? AND WHADDAYA GONNA DO ABOUT IT?

I WILL SEE *JUSTICE* DONE!

"HE WAS *INCREDIBLE.* IN MOMENTS, HE HAD THOSE PUNKS ON THE RUN."

WOW! THANKS! WHO...WHO ARE YOU?

I HAVE MANY NAMES. BUT THOSE IN NEED OF HELP OR SECURITY KNOW ME AS...

...CHICKEN FINGERS!

IF YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY SPARE CHANGE, OR PERHAPS A SURPLUS FIVE-COURSE THANKS-GIVING DINNER, IT WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED.

CHICKEN FINGERS WAS A LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD FIXTURE. LOOKED OUT FOR FOLKS, WASHED PEOPLE'S WINDOWS, SCREAMED A ***LOT*** AT THIS ONE FIRE HYDRANT...

"HE WAS ONE OF THE THROATCUTTERS WHO HELPED ME FEEL AT ***HOME*** ON THE HILL.

"THERE WAS ***MRS. ANNETTE,*** WHO RAN HER HAIR SALON LIKE AN ARTIST-- EVEN THOUGH IT WAS REALLY JUST A FRONT FOR A GAMBLING RING."

I LIKE THIS LOOK FOR YOU, AND I ALSO LIKE ***SADDLE CRAMP*** IN THE FIFTH AT GOTHAM DOWNS.

"OR ***MR. WURLIGAN,*** THE LOCKSMITH. SURE, HE MADE HIS OWN COPIES OF HIS CUSTOMERS' KEYS, BUT HE ONLY USED 'EM WHEN HE KNEW YOU'D BE OUT.

"OR ***MR.*** AND ***MRS. VU,*** WHO ALWAYS SLIPPED ME A COUPLE EXTRA DUMPLINGS, AND ONLY GAVE ME FOOD POISONING A COUPLA TIMES.

"UP THE HILL, YOU KNEW YOUR NEIGHBORS, AND YOU KNEW THE FOLKS MUGGIN' YOU."

I GOT A ***B-*** ON MY BIO TEST, MS. QUINZEL!

THAT'S GREAT, ***SCAB!***

THAT'S IT! TO GET A FRESH START, I GOTTA GO BACK WHERE I STARTED!

BACK TO THE GRITTY STREETS OF THE OLD NABE! THE CORNER OF GOTHAM EVEN THE BAT GAVE UP ON!

THE PLACE WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME--THOUGH I NEVER DID FIND OUT WHAT CHICKEN FINGERS' WAS.

THAT GRIMY, SLIMY, CRIME-RIDDEN, VISCERA-SPATTERED, DEAD-END, NO-HOPE WONDERLAND OF THROATCUTTER--

HUH?!

WHAT THE @#*%! HAPPENED TO THIS PLACE?!

WHERE'S THE *TRASH?* WHERE'S THE STORES RUN BY PEOPLE WHO *HATED* YOU FOR TRYING TO BUY SOMETHING?

OLIVE OIL ONLY

WHERE'S THE *CHARACTER?!*

HEY! UNNECESSARY OVERPRICED TCHOTCHKE SALESPERSON! WHAT'S THE DEAL?!

ARE YOU ROBBING US?! DON'T KILL ME--WE'RE *CASHLESS!*

RELAX, I DON'T WANT TO HURT YA. *YET.*

DO YOUR DOGS BITE?

CONSTANTLY.

LISTEN UP, PUNK--OR RATHER, *NON-PUNK,* WHICH IS KINDA THE PROBLEM. WHAT HAPPENED TO THROATCUTTER HILL?

UH... CAPITALISM?

OF COURSE! MONEY SUCCEEDED WHERE MASKED EXTRA-LEGAL JUSTICE FAILED!

OKAY, TIME TO EDUCATE THE YOUTH.

THIS NEIGHBORHOOD USED TO BE A MAGICAL PLACE FOR PENNILESS GRAD STUDENTS, ASPIRING YOUNG MANIACS, OR THE RARE SUPERSTARS WHO HAPPENED TO BE ***BOTH.***

YEAH, I HEARD IT USED TO BE PRETTY SHADY AROUND HERE. THEN THEY OPENED UP THE ***NOWEGOSOE*** TOWER AND REALLY CLEANED THE PLACE UP.

NOWEGOSOE? WHAT'S THAT? SOME KINDA SECRET PASSWORD?

ELDRITCH INCANTATION?!

ALIEN OVERLORD?!

NO, IT STANDS FOR **NO**RTH**WE**ST **GO**THAM **SO**UTH**E**AST.

OY, THAT'S STUPID.

FELLAS, I GOTTA GET A GANDER AT THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS GENTRIFICRAZINESS.

HOW DARE THEY DO THIS TO THE PART OF TOWN I HAVEN'T BOTHERED TO VISIT IN YEARS?!

AND SURE, PUTTIN' ON MY THERAPY CAP, IT'S POSSIBLE I'M MAD PARTLY CUZ THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S BEEN ABLE TO GROW AND CHANGE WHILE I HAVEN'T.

BUT I'M CHOOSIN' TO TAKE OFF MY THERAPY CAP AND SET IT ON FIRE.

THAT MUST BE THE PLACE. LOOKS LIKE IF A FRAT BOY STARTED A HEDGE FUND AND THEN A WITCH TURNED HIM INTO A BUILDING.

NWGS DEODE

WHAT ARE THOSE SECURITY GUARDS DOIN'?

MOVE IT, ***CREEP***. WE TOLD YOU TO QUIT HANGING AROUND HERE.

I'M MERELY AN AGENT OF SECURITY ON PATROL, THE SAME AS YOU, SIR!

THAT'S CHICKEN FINGERS! *THEY'RE HASSLIN'* **CHICKEN FINGERS!**

I'M AS FURIOUS AT HOW THEY'RE TREATIN' HIM AS I AM SHOCKED HE'S STILL ALIVE!

HANDS OFF

THAT INITIALLY OFF-PUTTING

YET ULTIMATELY HARMLESS

LOCAL FIXTURE!

MANY THANKS, FELLOW STREET SENTINEL. WHO ARE YOU?

JUST AN OLD NEIGHBOR LENDIN' A HAND.

BE FOREWARNED, ***CIVIC-MINDED RAINBOW-HAIRED WOMAN!*** MORE GOONS ENTER THE FRAY!

GOOD! MY FISTS AIN'T USED UP THEIR ANGRY YET!

LET'S DO OUR PART TO END STREET VIOLENCE--

--BY TAKIN' THIS VIOLENCE ***INSIDE!***

SMASH!

WHAT IS THIS?! THEY SAID NOWEGOSOE WAS SAFE NOW!

KRAK!

WHO SAID THAT? ***I*** SURE AS HELL DIDN'T SAY THAT!

THIS PLACE IS A CESSPIT, AND I DON'T CARE HOW MANY RENT-A-THUGS I GOTTA SEND TO THE E.R. TO PROVE IT!

ACTUALLY, THAT'S MORE RENT-A-THUGS THAN I WAS EXPECTIN'.

BUT STILL, LET'S DO THIS! SIC SEMPER HIGH-RENTIS!

STOP! STOP THIS INSTANT!

OH YEAH? AND WHO'S GONNA MAKE ME?!

OHHHH... YOU'RE GONNA MAKE ME...

PLEASE, PLEASE MAKE ME?

I SHALL. I, ALTHEA KLANG, VISIONARY DEVELOPER, BUILDER OF DREAMS, ONE OF GOTHAM REALTY REPORT'S FORTY UNDER FORTY! AND MANAGER OF THE NOWEGOSOE TOWER.

I ORDER YOU TO REMOVE YOURSELF AND YOUR CREATURES FROM MY DOMAIN. AND YOU WILL OBEY ME.

LIKE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL KNIFE EVER SHARPENED...

EXCUSE ME?

OH, SORRY. I GOT A THING FOR STRONG WOMEN POWERED BY NEARLY FATHOMLESS FURY.

YOU SEEING ANYBODY?

OBVIOUSLY YOUR COMBINATION OF CONFIDENCE, RECKLESSNESS, AND SUBMISSION IS ATTRACTIVE TO ME. BUT MY BUILDING IS A HIGHER PRIORITY THAN ALL OTHER DESIRES.

SETTIN' ASIDE HOW YOU'RE TEMPTING ME TO ***UNDO*** A LOTTA YEARS OF SELF-WORK...

YOUR GOONS WERE MISTREATING MY FRIEND. I CAN'T LET THAT STAND.

I ASSUME YOU MEAN THE ***FILTHY BEGGAR*** WHO INSISTS ON FOULING UP OUR DOORSTEP AS THE VESTIGIAL REMNANT OF AN EARLIER, MORE DISGUSTING TIME?

INDEED, I DO.

YOUR "FRIEND," IF SUCH A RELATIONSHIP IS EVEN POSSIBLE, WAS BREAKING THE LAW. NOT THE PALTRY CRIMINAL CODE, BUT THE SACRED LAW OF DEMAND AND SUPPLY.

PEOPLE WITH MONEY ***DEMAND*** A SAFE, CLEAN PLACE TO LIVE. I ***SUPPLY*** IT. ANYTHING THAT THREATENS TO DISRUPT THAT BEAUTIFUL SYMBIOSIS MUST BE ELIMINATED.

HOLY MR. FREEZE'S SORE NIPPLES, YOU'RE HORRIBLE.

I ***SO*** WISH I DIDN'T HAVE AN INSTANT CRUSH ON YOU.

GO, OR I'M CALLING THE POLICE.

OH, THEY ANSWER CALLS FROM THIS AREA NOW?

I SHALL TAKE MY LEAVE, MILADY OLIGARCH. BUT YOU AIN'T HEARD THE LAST OF ME ***SMASHING*** YOUR STUFF.

CAN'T BELIEVE I CRUMBLED LIKE THAT. I'M SUCH A ***SUCKER*** FOR AN EVIL FACE.

WHY DIDN'T YOU GUYS HELP ME OUT AND BITE HER FACE OFF?!

I JUST WISH I HADN'T GOTTEN HERE TOO LATE. SURE, REVENGE IS A BLAST, BUT I WISH I COULDA ***SAVED*** A LITTLE OF THE OLD PLACE...

I CAN'T LET HER GET AWAY WITH TAKIN' THE JOY OUTTA THIS PLACE!

SHE'S DOIN' THE SAME THING TO THROATCUTTER HILL THAT MY OWN NEUROSES ARE DOIN' TO ME!

THAT'LL DO!

AND THE LESSON OF THE DAY IS, I GOTTA STOP MAKIN' ASSUMPTIONS.

ROOM FOR RENT

DING DONG!

YIPE! YIPE!

DING DONG! DING DONG!

YIPE! YIPE! YIPE!

DINGDONGDINGDONGDINGDONGDINGDONG

YIPE! YIPE! YIPE! YIPE! YIPE! YIPE! YIPE! YIPE!

WHAT?!

YIPE! YIPE! YIPE!

HIYA! I USED TO LIVE AROUND HERE, AND NOW I'M GONNA MOVE BACK CUZ I'M ON A QUEST FOR A SORT OF UNHOLY REAL ESTATE-BASED VENGEANCE, SO I'M GONNA NEED TO RENT YOUR ROOM.

NO.

OH COME ON, PLEEEEEASE?

I DON'T ALLOW PETS.

THEY'RE REALLY MORE LIKE ***CO-WORKERS.***

YIPE! YIPE!

YOU LOOK INSANE!

ONLY BECAUSE I AM!

YIPE! YIPE!

A WOMAN DON'T STAY MARRIED FOR ***FORTY YEARS*** TO A MAN IN THE CEMENT BUSINESS, *GOD REST HIS IDIOT SOUL*, WITHOUT RECOGNIZIN' BAD NEWS. AND YOU'RE BAD NEWS!

BUT I'M THE GOOD KINDA BAD NEWS, YOU OLD RUBE!

RICHIE!

MAKE THIS NUTCASE LEAVE OUR HOUSE!

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE YELLING, GRANDMA?! YOU WANT HER TO LEAVE, FINE. I'LL GET HER TO--

--STAY ***FOREVER,*** MAYBE?

I'VE BEEN THERE. THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO ME LIKE FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO.

YOU GOT ENOUGH MACARONI AND GRAVY? YOU NEED ANY HELP MOVIN' YOUR STUFF? YOU GOT A BOYFRIEND?

YES, NO I SMASHED UP MOST OF IT, AND IT'S SO ***INCREDIBLY*** COMPLICATED.

MRS. GRIMALDI, I THINK IT'S SO GREAT YOU DIDN'T LET THAT NOWEGOPRO PUSH YOU OUT.

THEY TRIED GETTIN' ME TO SELL, BUT NOTHIN' DOIN'. I WAS ***BORN*** IN THIS HOUSE, AND I'M GONNA ***DIE*** IN THIS HOUSE.

AW GEE, THAT'S BEAUTIFUL. LOVIN' A PLACE SO MUCH YOU CAN VISUALIZE THE PARAMEDICS DISCOVERIN' YOUR ROTTIN' CORPSE THERE.

SPOKEN LIKE A REAL THROAT-CUTTER...

...YOU CAN STAY.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, MRS. GRIMALDI! I PROMISE YOU WON'T REGRET IT FOR AT LEAST A LITTLE WHILE!

GET OFFA ME! AND TELL YOUR BIG DOGS NOT TO EAT MY LITTLE DOG!

BUD, YOU'RE GONNA ***BLOW*** THIS FOR ME!

THAT CINCHES IT. I CAN'T LET ALTHEA KLANG FORCE OUT SOME BITTER, MEAN OLD BIDDY. GOD WILLING, THAT'LL BE *ME* SOMEDAY!

JUST GOES TO SHOW. ALL THIS TIME I'VE BEEN TRYIN' TO FIGURE OUT WHETHER I'M A RAMPAGING CHAOS MONSTER OR AN OKAY PERSON.

MAYBE I DON'T HAFTA CHOOSE!

I'M GONNA MAKE THROATCUTTER HILL ***SAFE*** FOR WHOLESOME CRIME AGAIN! I'M GONNA RUN ALTHEA KLANG OUTTA HERE FOR GOOD!

MAYBE NOT UNTIL AFTER I ***MAKE OUT*** WITH HER. RATS, I WISH I DIDN'T CONTAIN MULTITUDES.

AND A NEW MISSION CALLS FOR A ***NEW OUTFIT!*** LET'S SEE...

WHAT IF I RECLAIM THE STUFF I LOVE ABOUT MY OLD SCHMATTAS--

--WHICH EVERYONE FORGETS I DESIGNED, BY THE WAY...

I NEED 'EM TO KNOW HARLEY QUINN'S BACK ON THE BLOCK.

BUT I ALSO GOTTA ESTABLISH A LOOK THAT SAYS I'M AN URBAN CHAMPION OF THE FILTHY PEOPLE.

CUZ DOWN THESE NO-LONGER-MEAN STREETS, A GAL MUST GO WHO'S ***STILL*** MEAN. WHO AIN'T AFRAID! OR APPEALING TO AN UPPER-MIDDLE-CLASS PROFESSIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC!

SHE'S GOTTA BE A ***SYMBOL.*** REMINDIN' PEOPLE HOW BAD THINGS USEDTA BE. AND HOW THEY CAN BE THAT BAD ***AGAIN!***

SOMEBODY PEOPLE CAN GO TO WHEN THEY GOT NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN FOR HELP WRECKING STUFF!

HARLEY QUINN DESTRUCTIVE AGENCY

STEP RIGHT UP, NEIGHBORS! THE ***HARLEY QUINN DESTRUCTIVE AGENCY*** IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

NOW TO SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR MY FIRST CLIENT.

I SHOULD PROBABLY *TELL* PEOPLE I'M TAKING CLIENTS.

"NOBODY EVEN KNOWS I'M HERE!"

WE CAN'T HAVE HARLEY QUINN HERE IN NOWEGOSOE. SHE COULD SINGLE-HANDEDLY DRAG THIS NEIGHBORHOOD BACK INTO THE GUTTER!

AND TAKE MY ANNUAL STOCK BONUS WITH HER.

UNDERSTOOD, MA'AM. THE NEXT TIME HARLEY QUINN SHOWS HER FACE? I'LL **BASH** IT IN.

EXCELLENT.

JUST DON'T DO IT ON THE NEW CARPETS.

NEXT: *HARLEY QUINN QUESTIONS CORPORATE FUNDING OF PUBLIC ART...WITH* **DYNAMITE!**

DC

AEW PRESENTS

BRITTSBURGH

Welcome to BRITTSBURGH

BRITTANY BREAKER

DMD

MOST ARE BORN WITH **ONE PATH** IN LIFE, AND LUCKY TO PURSUE IT. **LUCKIER STILL** TO ACHIEVE IT.

BUT **BRITT BAKER** HAD TWO.

FOR HER, THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE **SAME PATH.**

THE CHALLENGES. THE TWISTS AND TURNS. IN **DENTAL SCHOOL...**

...AND IN **PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.** THEY WEAVE TOGETHER--**FUEL** EACH OTHER.

WHEN IT CAME TO THE **RING,** IT WASN'T ALWAYS **BALLET...**

...BUT IT WAS HER **ONLY WAY FORWARD.** NO MATTER HOW **INTENSE** ONE PATH GOT...

...THE **OTHER PATH** WAS THERE TO **RELIEVE THE PRESSURE.**

ON **GRADUATION DAY,** BRITT FILLED NOT **ONE**...BUT **TWO ARENAS.**

BRITT HAD ARRIVED. BETWEEN THE ROPES...

...THE TIME FOR **STUDIES** WAS OVER. SHE DELIVERED **PAIN.**

IN THE OFFICE...SHE DELIVERED **RELIEF.**

STILL, THE WORLD HOWLED AT BRITT TO **CHOOSE,** TO PICK A LANE...

...AND STILL SHE **REFUSED.** VICTORY FOLLOWED. **NEW WINS** AND **NEW HONORS.**

THE Owen Hart FOUNDATION

SHE WASN'T JUST A FIGHTER--BUT A **ROLE MODEL.** NOT JUST A **ROLE MODEL**--BUT A **CHAMPION.**

FOR EVERY GOOD PATIENT, THERE'S TWO WITH LIP SERVICE, WHO **DON'T LISTEN**--WHO PAY THE PRICE.

AND **SHE** PAYS A PRICE, TOO. SHE **FEELS** IT. IT'S PART OF THE JOB. THE **FRUSTRATION** BUILDS...

...UNTIL SHE **HITS THE RING**--AND **THEN** HER **OPPONENT** PAYS THE PRICE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...

DR. BRITT BAKER, D.M.D.!

STEVE ORLANDO WRITER
LAURA BRAGA ARTIST
HI-FI COLORS · **JOSH REED** LETTERS
MICHAEL McCALISTER EDITOR

DC AEW

DC

AEW

AEW DYNAMITE

tbs

WEDNESDAYS AT 8/7C

AEW RAMPAGE

TNT

FRIDAYS AT 10/9C

AEW COLLISION

TNT

SATURDAYS AT 8/7C

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John Cassaday

1971-2024

John Cassaday was one of my favorite creators. He was an incredible artist who drew beautifully naturalistic figures when house styles chased hyperrealism trends. A true maverick, John was also a nuanced storyteller who relied on sharp compositions and precise framing, which made his imagery cinematic and powerful. The sum total was just pure comics.

John was truly the kindest and most generous spirit. An integral part of WildStorm's early history and success, he spent a lot of time with us in San Diego. John's passing leaves me stunned and heartbroken.

Rest in peace, buddy.
—**Jim Lee**, DC Comics Publisher & CCO

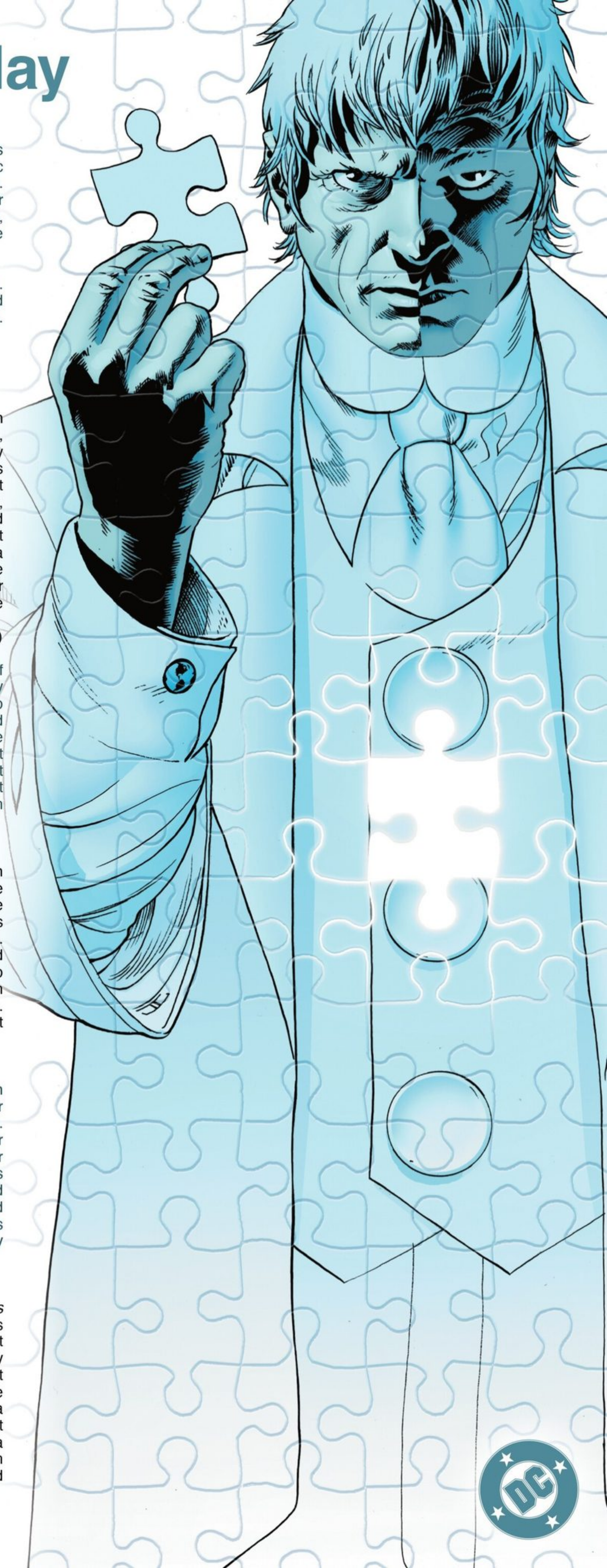
My dear friend John Cassaday was not just an amazing artist but an amazing person—warm, kind, funny, charming, and generous. I knew him for nearly half my life, and ours was one of my most precious and valued friendships. He was easily one of the best comics illustrators and storytellers of the 21st century, a reference point and inspiration to the dozens and dozens of artists whose work he influenced. Most people, after they pass, are remembered only by a small group of friends and loved ones. John will be talked about and remembered by an entire industry for ages, and rightfully so. Rest in peace, Johnny. Love you.
—**Mark Waid** (*Justice League Unlimited*, *Kingdom Come*)

Working with John Cassaday on *Planetary* was one of the greatest periods of my comics career, and certainly informed how I'd approach comics in the years to come. *Planetary* was a showcase of the potential and possibility of comics, and there could not be a more thrilling book to work on, nor a more visionary artist than John. In those years we forged a friendship that would last for a lifetime. John was a brilliant artist, but as great as he was, John was an even better friend. I'm gonna miss him forever.
—**John Layman** (*Planetary*, *Titans*)

I first met John in the '90s and was instantly blown away by his amazing artwork. He had a presence about him—a smile that lit up the room and an ease and softness to his voice and mannerisms that always made everyone around him want more of his attention. He loved comics, loved the art form, and encouraged and celebrated everyone's work around him. I was so happy to give him such a hearty hug when I saw him last, but little did I ever dream it would be the last time. The world lost a great artist, and those in his circle lost a loyal, loving, and dear friend.
—**Jimmy Palmiotti** (*Harley Quinn*, *Jonah Hex*)

John was a titan. That tall, rangy, lantern-jawed Texan with the easy smile and the bone-dry sense of humor had universes inside him. He could do anything. He challenged himself as an artist and storyteller constantly, never standing still, always reaching for new peaks and always finding them. His kindness was eternal. My life would have been a very different and lesser thing if not for John Cassaday. The world and our medium are thinner and meaner places for his passing. These words are not enough. Good night, my good friend.
—**Warren Ellis** (*Planetary*)

John Cassaday started working on *Desperadoes* at WildStorm just as this newly minted colorist was learning the ropes in the coloring department. I got the chance to join John on *Planetary*, and history was made for both of us. John played no small part in making me the colorist I am today, by pushing me to try new techniques and effects while teaching me a great deal about the power of color in storytelling. Not only that, but John was sweet and down-to-earth, a gentleman and a dear friend from day one. John, I am a better artist and person for having known you and shared in your vision.
—**Laura Martin** (*Planetary*)

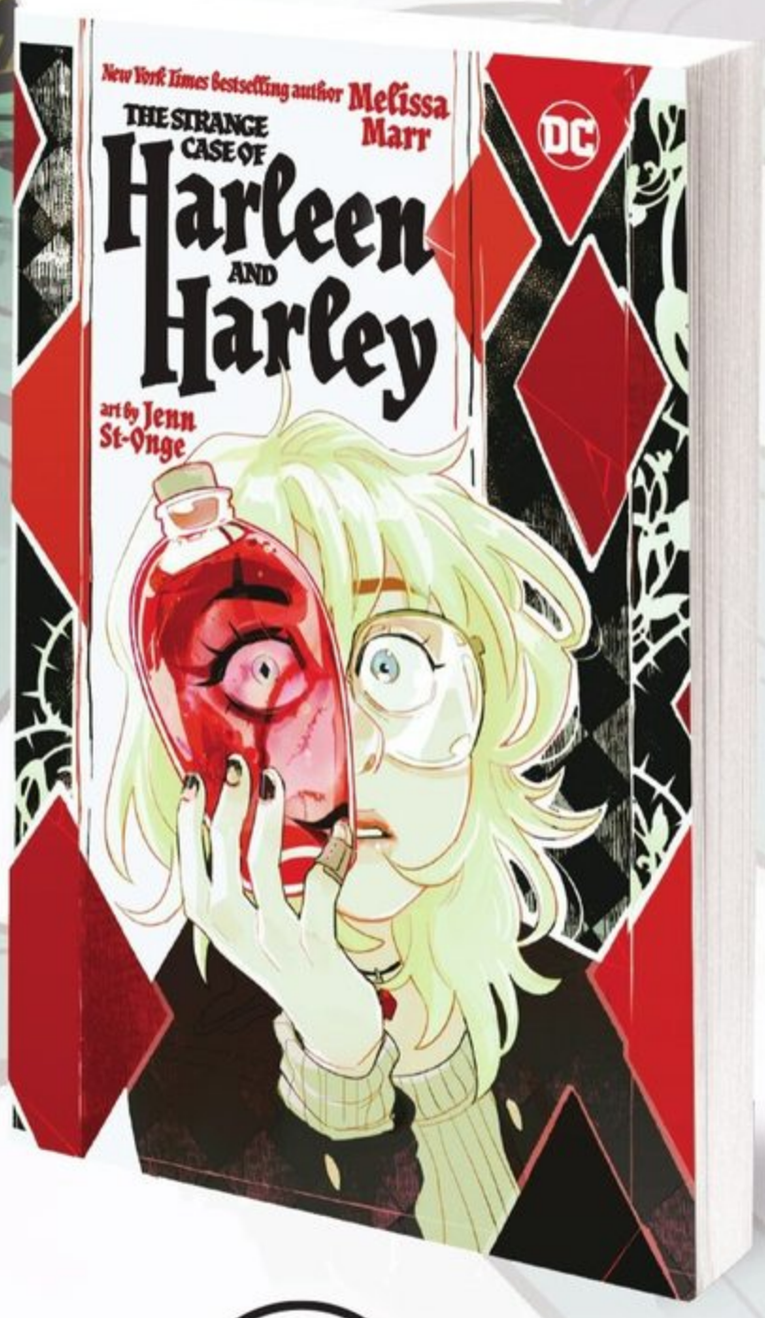


Harleen Quinzel is many things...
but she is nothing like Harley Quinn!

THE STRANGE CASE OF Harleen AND Harley

Written by
New York Times
bestseller
Melissa Marr

Illustrated by
Jenn St-Onge



DC

A new graphic novel for young adults

OCTOBER

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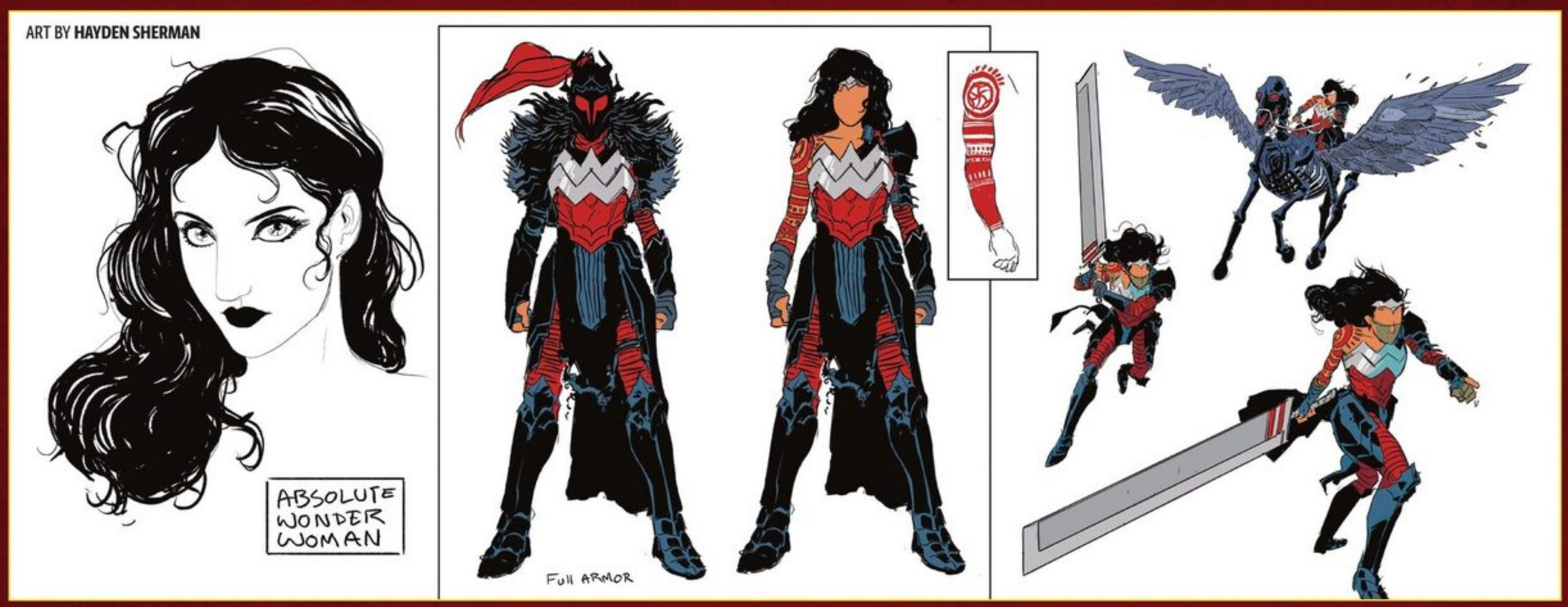
DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

ALL IN

ABSOLUTE WONDER WOMAN

Following the birth of the Absolute Universe in *DC All In Special* #1, DC's Absolute line continues with *Absolute Wonder Woman* from writer Kelly Thompson and artist Hayden Sherman, featuring an exhilarating new take on the iconic hero.

To prepare for *Absolute Wonder Woman*, here's insight directly from Thompson herself, in the form of her mission statement for the upcoming series.



Humankind's age of superheroes has officially begun, and Diana, Princess of Hell, is its first gift. She is perhaps not quite the gift the world had in mind, but she will more than do.

Once upon a time there was a princess blessed with all the gifts a princess could want—beauty, grace, compassion, wisdom, and of course the ability to outrun a hellhound, swing an axe with the strength of Ares, and suplex with more style than Hercules.

Because she was raised in Hell—and when you are living in Hell, all these gifts come in quite handy.

But she was not born in Hell; she was born in paradise. She lived, loved perhaps more than any child in all the world, on the island of Themyscira, sole child of the immortal Amazons. She had been a gift to them from the goddesses for their good works (1,000 years of protecting the world of men, among other things), and barely a year later Diana was taken from the Amazons as punishment for their "bad" works.

But even the gods could not kill a child this special, this loved, this blessed, with ease...

DON'T MISS ***ABSOLUTE WONDER WOMAN #1***, ON SALE IN OCTOBER!

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